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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament"

Report submitted by Slovakia

1. Following the agreement in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference on "regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament", Slovakia wishes to report the following.

2. In spite of the fact that Slovakia is not a nuclear-weapon State, it is a long-standing policy to support and to participate in activities relevant to non-proliferation and the eradication of all types of weapons of mass destruction. In 1993, as one of the successor States of the former Czechoslovakia, Slovakia assumed all relevant international commitments in this field.

3. Slovakia welcomes the agreements between the United States of America and the Russian Federation considerably reducing their nuclear arsenals and believes that the agreements point to the creation of a new strategic framework and an improved bilateral relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation for the twenty-first century.

4. Slovakia is aware of the essential role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in strengthening global peace and security. In a changing world security environment, the early entry into force of the Treaty is even more urgent and important today. Therefore Slovakia calls upon all States, especially those on the list of 44 States whose ratification is required for its entry into force, to do so without any delay. Slovakia aligned itself with the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted on 14 September 2002 at United Nations Headquarters calling for the early ratification of the Treaty by all relevant States. Slovakia ratified the Treaty in March 1998 and fully observes its obligations arising from the Treaty. In September/October 2001, Slovakia hosted the second on-site inspection field experiment and equipment test. Slovakia has designated the

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Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority as its national authority and thus established a focal point for liaison with other State signatories.

5. Slovakia regrets that the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to commence negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, which would be an important multilateral step in strengthening nuclear non-proliferation as well as nuclear disarmament. In this connection, Slovakia supports the establishment of a subsidiary body within the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a fissile material cut-off treaty.

6. Slovakia fully endorses the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons and supports the strengthened revision process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Accordingly, Slovakia stands ready to participate actively in the preparation of the 2005 Review Conference.

7. All nuclear facilities as well as nuclear material in the Slovak territory are subject to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) full-scope safeguards. In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic performs inspections of small users in accordance with the provisions of the so-called Atomic Act. In September 1999, Slovakia signed the new Full Scope Safeguards Agreement with IAEA and the Additional Protocol to the new Agreement. Slovakia also vigorously supports the International Atomic Energy Agency's programme for strengthening the effectiveness and improvement of the efficiency of safeguards to further enhance the Agency's ability to detect undeclared nuclear materials and clandestine activities.

8. Nuclear export control is an important element of the implementation of article III, paragraph 2, of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Slovakia fully implements and applies the Understanding of the Zangger Committee and the Guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group to exports of nuclear-related material and technologies.

9. Slovakia cooperates broadly with a number of international organizations and with more than 25 countries on a bilateral basis in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Slovakia also participates in regular consultations of the European Union with the associated countries on wide range of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament issues.

10. Slovakia believes that reporting as such will increase transparency and confidence within the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and despite differences in views with regard to the scope and the format of reporting, Slovakia is convinced that all parties to the Treaty are united in the their will to make the process of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament continuous and irreversible.